

ABSTRACT

5 A security tag includes a tag body and an attaching pin for
attaching the tag body to a protected article. The security tag further
includes a locking mechanism for releasably preventing the attaching pin
from being removed from the protected article. The locking mechanism is
provided for mechanically or magnetically released the attaching pin for
detaching the tag body from the article. In a preferred embodiment, the
locking mechanism further includes a plurality of balls for tightly holding
10 to the attaching pin for releasably preventing the attaching means from
being removed from the article. In a preferred embodiment, the locking
mechanism further includes a mechanical unlocking probe finger for
applying a mechanical force to release the balls from the attaching pin
whereby the attaching pin may be released and detached from the tag
15 body. In a preferred embodiment, the locking mechanism further
includes an unlocking magnet for applying a magnet force to release the
balls from the attaching pin whereby the attaching pin may be released
and detached from the tag body.

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